

19 February 2023

Dear Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee.

I am writing to vehemently OPPOSE H.B. 5663 – “Excise Tax on Ammunition”

This unjust tax will place an undue burden on legitimate gun owners, and sportsman like me who enjoy shooting sports like trap and skeet.

With Gun control advocates calling for more training before purchasing and owning a firearm, this tax will drive up the cost of classes and possibly prohibit people who are already struggling in this economy from exercising their second amendment rights.

How much more money is needed in the name of “Reducing Gun Violence”?

Governor LaMont has already pledged to spend 64 million dollars on a Gun Control package. The shootings and crime continue in the major cities.

He is planning to spend 5 million dollars of COVID relief funding to tackle Gun Violence and Crime, yet both continue to exist in our major cities, and are creeping into the suburbs, like West Hartford, East Hartford, and Manchester, just to name a few.

Any intelligent individual should be able to see a pattern here.

Where is our “Return on Investment”?

If we had a financial advisor who was advising us with this kind of R.O.I. they would have been replaced long ago.

I have heard it said, that “Doing the same thing over and over yet expecting a different outcome, is the definition of insanity”

That said, let’s get back to basics.

Let the police do their job.

There are already sufficient gun laws on the books to incarcerate these problem individuals, and often repeat offenders for a year at minimum, since the majority of these offenders cannot legally possess a handgun anyway. I believe Connecticut already has a law on the books that calls for a MANDATORY one year sentence for carrying a handgun without a permit. I would hazard a guess that almost nobody is serving time under this law.

Oh, and while some of these juvenile offenders, and gang bangers are locked up, perhaps they could obtain a GED, or learn a trade, so that they might someday become a productive member of society.

Thank You for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely

Richard E. Claus, Jr.

Willington, Conn.